

Patent claims:

1. A method of receiving coded digital data symbols sent from a transmitter
5 through a transmission channel of a communications network, the method comprising the steps of:
- calculating an estimate (y) of a sent data symbol, said estimate being represented by a first number (a+b) of bits;
 - selecting from said calculated estimate a second number (c) of bits,
10 said second number (c) being lower than said first number (a+b), to achieve a rounded estimate (y') being represented by said second number (c) of bits; and
 - decoding the rounded estimate (y') to achieve a decoded data symbol,
- c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the method further comprises the
15 steps of:
- receiving from said network a target value for a block error rate of the transmission channel; and
 - selecting said second number of bits in dependence on said target block error rate value.
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2. A method according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the step of selecting said second number of bits comprises the steps of:
- multiplying said estimate (y) by a scaling factor; and
 - truncating a number of bits from said multiplied estimate (y_{sc}).
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3. A method according to claim 2, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that said scaling factor has the form 2^n , where n is an integer.
4. A method according to claim 2 or 3, c h a r a c t e r i z e d in
30 that the method further comprises the step of selecting said scaling factor from a stored table comprising corresponding values of said target block error rate and said scaling factor.

5. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, **c h a r a c t e r - i z e d** in that said target block error rate value is the target BLER value defined in the technical specifications of 3GPP (3rd Generation Partnership Project).

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6. A receiver for receiving coded digital data symbols sent from a transmitter through a transmission channel of a communications network, the receiver being arranged to:

- calculate an estimate (y) of a sent data symbol, said estimate being represented by a first number (a+b) of bits;
 - select from said calculated estimate a second number (c) of bits, said second number (c) being lower than said first number (a+b), to achieve a rounded estimate (y') being represented by said second number (c) of bits; and
 - decode the rounded estimate (y') to achieve a decoded data symbol,
- c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that the receiver is further arranged to:
- receive from said network a target value for a block error rate of the transmission channel; and
 - select said second number of bits in dependence on said target block error rate value.

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7. A receiver according to claim 6, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that the receiver is further arranged to select said second number of bits by:

- multiplying said estimate (y) by a scaling factor; and
- truncating a number of bits from said multiplied estimate (y_{sc}).

8. A receiver according to claim 7, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that said scaling factor has the form 2^n , where n is an integer.

9. A receiver according to claim 7 or 8, **c h a r a c t e r i z e d** in that the receiver comprises a stored table comprising corresponding values of said target block error rate and said scaling factor, from which table said scaling factor can be selected.

10. A receiver according to any one of claims 6 to 9, c h a r a c -
t e r i z e d in that said target block error rate value is the target BLER
value defined in the technical specifications of 3GPP (3rd Generation Part-
5 nership Project).